

LABOR STATE PAPER

ALL THE NEWS OF LABOR

AFFILIATED WITH
A. F. OF L. WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS SERVICE

NUBBLED REASONING GIVEN BY CONGRESS REJECTING WAGE LAW

Recess Committee's Conclusions Show Nothing But Naive Understanding of the Problem of Wages and Hours in the State of Maine.

Committee Fails to Provide Logical Basis for Rejection of Proposed Law or Satisfactory Excuse for Going to Expense of Holding Public Hearings Without Giving Weight to Their Value—Further Investigation by Committee of Nine Proposed by Recess Committee.

By EVERETT and CYNTHIA BURTT

Maine must not have a general minimum wage and maximum hour law. This is the contention given the various reasons of underpaid and overworked employees in Maine by the six members of the Maine Legislature who made part of the Recess Committee on Wage and Hour Legislation.

The Recess Committee rejected blanket minimum wage and hour law because it wanted to help the State of Maine. A wage and hour law would not secure the good of the greater number, although every member of the Committee was in favor of relief to the underpaid and overworked employees of Maine. According to their report, such a law might help workers directly affected but it would inflict greater injury on other workers not so exploited and on employers of labor.

Although 25 States, the District of

Columbia, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Federal Government have minimum wage laws upheld by the courts in these respective governmental units, the Maine Committee rejects any such law for the State of Maine. It fails to present satisfactory evidence to uphold its position, and scorns the judgment of a majority of American governmental bodies.

The Committee used one public hearing, on December 5, 1940, a number of written communications, and personal investigations by members of the Committee of wage and hour conditions in their respective localities, for the basis of its decision.

Representatives of Labor, of the Business and Professional Women's Club, and "an employer of labor" all appeared at the hearing. Respectfully, every one of these representatives with the exception of the latter, an employer,

BANGOR AIRPORT JOB TO BE COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

(Special to The Labor News)

Summarizing union activities in Bangor, B. J. Dorsey, president of the Maine State Federation of Labor, is with a statement that completion of work on the Bangor airport is winning the distinction of being the outstanding job—born of the standpoint of speed—in the entire country.

This Mr. Dorsey stated, was accomplished through the fine cooperation and good relations existing between Contractor T. W. Cunningham and the union, which makes for completion of the airport ahead of schedule.

"It is most gratifying," says Brother Dorsey, "that except for a minor grievance which was speedily adjusted, the airport job—employing the largest number of mechanics of any job ever done in the State of Maine—went along like clock-work, and which is referred to as remarkable by all interested, and who carefully watched activities since the job was started several months ago."

Reporting for Bangor Central Labor Union activities, Mr. Dorsey said that representatives of the Painters' Union reported they had signed an agreement.

(Continued on Page 5)

Printers to Vote May 14 on Again Joining A. F. of L.

Approximately 2,000 members of the International Typographical Union, of which Claude Baker is president, will be given a chance to approve in a referendum election, next May 14, the basic of understanding for re-affiliation of the I. T. U. with the American Federation of Labor.

The understanding was arrived at unanimously at a conference held in Maine, recently. The members of the executive council of the International Typographical Union, which national headquarters are in Indianapolis, will be asked to approve the agreement reached at Miami.

The biggest determining factor in the situation was that the local unions of the International Typographical Union were divorced from participation in the activities of city central labor bodies and state federations of the American Federation of Labor.

It is anticipated that the referendum on May 14 will overwhelmingly endorse the recommendations offered by the executive council of the International Typographical Union.

BUILDING LABORERS GRANTED 10 CENTS AN HOUR WAGE INCREASE

(Special to The Labor News)

Over two hundred members of Locals 8 and 12 of the Hod Carriers and Building Construction Laborers' International Union, of Portland, benefited by an agreement with general contractors which became effective April 7.

The agreement calls for a 10-cent, 40-hour work week overtime rates of time, and one-half for night work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The new wage rate for laborers is 60 cents per hour, food carters, 55 cents, and per hour, food carters, 55 cents, and per hour, food carters, 55 cents.

The first signed contract the union has had with contractors in over a decade, previous contracts having been verbal.

During the past few months many new members have taken advantage of the low entrance fee, which the local unions charged, and an arrangement was made to pay on a pay-as-you-work basis. The present fees are \$10 and \$15.

Representing Local 8 during the negotiations were Brothers J. W. Cunningham and Gustaf. The Portland Building Construction Trades Council was represented by Alexander F. Eagles and John Maloney. Members of the local unions are warm in their praise for the assistance rendered by the Contractors' Union.

The employers were John Maloney, Arthur Cullinan of the F. W. Cunningham Company, Joseph Bonifacio of the International Union, represented at that organization.

Joseph Pagano is president of Local 12; Nick Clark, secretary, and Nick Albano, treasurer. Business managers are: President of Local 8 include Joseph J. Albano, president, and Michael Curran, secretary. Both local unions were organized over a score of years ago.

41st Anniversary Celebration of Portland C. L. U. to Be Largest Labor Gathering Ever Held in State

More Than 600 Expected to Attend Event Sponsored by Portland Central Labor Union and Truck Drivers' Local 340—Banquet to Be Held at Eastland Hotel on Saturday Evening, May 3rd—Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt Among Invited Guest Speakers.

Present indications are that well in excess of 600 will attend the 41st anniversary of the Central Labor Union and the 4th anniversary of Truck Drivers and Warehousemen's Local 340, to be held in the Eastland Hotel on Saturday evening, May 3rd.

Among the special guests and speakers

Freeman M. Saitou, editor of the Maine State Labor News, will also be present and give a resume of the experiences of a trade unionist with several decades of active connection with the workers' problem.

Among local entertainers will be Miss Leda Gallant, dance solo; Louise

Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL. Solemnly Pledges There Will Be No Stoppage of Work on Projects Essential to Speeding Completion of Federal Program.

Outlines Conditions Under Which Contractors and Unions Can Operate Without Necessitating Delay in Construction Projects—Policies Adopted for 512 Local Councils Which Call for Cooperation of 1,500,000 Members for Success of National Defense Program.

Herbert Rivers, secretary-treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, this week made the following announcement:

"As evidence of their good faith and determination to cooperate in the national defense program, the members of the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in special session, have taken constructive action on two important problems, as follows:

"1. They have solemnly pledged that there will be no stoppage of work of any kind on projects essential to the building or construction project essential to speedily completion of the national defense program.

"2. They have agreed that when

the unions are unable to supply a full force of building tradesmen to contractors on defense projects who are recognized as being fair to organized labor.

(a) The contractor may employ non-union men until such time as the various unions can replace them with members of their own organizations.

(b) No permit or privilege monies shall be collected from these non-union men by the unions where such conditions exist.

(c) When such applications for membership are received, the unions shall be required to accept them.

(Continued on Page 5)

Laws Designed to Outlaw Strikes Condemned by Cong. Fogarty

Washington, D. C., Apr. 8 (APLNS)—A vigorous assault on the bill to

without their labor power, the bill was made here in a radio address by Representative John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island.

"I can think of no greater folly than the enactment of the anti-strike proposals which are now before Congress,"

of President Roosevelt, has established a

authority to invoke public opinion against whoever side is at fault in a strike or lockout.

"President Roosevelt, in establishing the Defense Mediation Board, has called upon both labor and management to give sufficient advance notice of any threatened interruption to continuous production to permit exploration of all possible avenues of settling controversies before they can get to the strike stage."

"The creation of the Defense Mediation Board represents an important and constructive step toward the prevention of uninterrupted production in defense industries. In view of the power of the board to remove from the picture of the laborer named to the board, I am satisfied that the board will be able to manage to settle disputes around the conference table and avoid the strike."

"The fight for fair and equitable treatment is as long as the story of the nation. Labor has made great progress in the last few years, but conditions it has gained labor jealous guards. That it should guard those rights and conditions is right and, in addition, it is highly desirable from the standpoint of the welfare of the entire nation."

"Our country is laboring, in the face of a mighty effort. The nation is dedicated to a lofty purpose. It would be the saddest form of hypocrisy to stand aside and watch the nation's life be strangled by the hands of a few men."

(Continued on Page 6)

Portland C. L. U. Women's Auxiliary Banquet to Be Brilliant Affair

Members of the committee in charge of the third anniversary celebration of the Women's Auxiliary to the Portland Central Labor Union, which is to be held in the Eastland Hotel on Saturday evening, April 20th, expect it will be attended by more than 200 members and friends, and no means are being spared to make the supper and dance a most interesting and brilliant affair.

Among the invited guests who plan to attend are Commissioner Charles E. Fortin of the Maine Unemployment Compensation Commission and Mrs. Fortin; Alphonse F. Young, general organizer for the A. F. of L. in Boston; Governor and Mrs. Sumner Sewall; Mr. Oran, secretary of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor; Washington; Miss Rose Sullivan, acting director of organization in New England; Boston; President and Mrs. Benjamin J. Dorsey of Bangor are also expected to make a delegation of officers of the State Federation of Labor.

Members of the newly organized Auxiliary at Bucksport have also been invited to attend.

A limited supply of tickets are still available by contacting Mrs. Alice M. Howe, chairman of the ticket committee, 23 Reynolds street, South Portland. The price of tickets are fifty cents, which includes both supper and dance.

Among those who will take part in the entertainment program will be Miss Louise Russell, soloist, and Miss Jean Russell, violinist, and Miss Jean Russell, violinist, and Miss Jean Russell, violinist.

The anniversary committee members include: Mrs. Alice Howe, tickets; Mrs. Doris Houghton, entertainment; Mrs. Laura Thompson, Mrs. Laura Gagnon and Mrs. Mary Griffin, kitchen; Mrs. Ethel Hastings, Mrs. Mary Dunn and Mrs. Lena Austin, table service.

Connecticut's Union Congressman Predicts Rebellion if Congress Adopts Anti-Strike Legislation

Predicting that if Congress adopts the proposed anti-strike legislation such action would constitute a rebellion, Congressman William Fitzgerald of Connecticut, in an interview with a Washington correspondent last Friday, strongly denounced anti-strike bills and compulsory arbitration of defense labor disputes as certain to lead to rebellion.

During the interview, Congressman Fitzgerald said that compulsory arbitration has never worked in this country. "This was demonstrated in European wars, where there were more strikes during the World War than there were in the United States."

As a means for assuring industrial peace, he advocated voluntary arbitration. "If employers would go along and recognize the National Labor Relations Act and other laws providing for the peaceful settlement of labor disputes, there would be no difficulty in maintaining peace in defense work."

AFL AUTO WORKERS' PACT PROVIDES WAGE BOOST

Grand Haven, Mich., Apr. 2 (APLNS)—A closed shop contract was signed between Local 600, A. F. of L. United Auto Workers, and the Wolverine Pressed Steel Company. All employees of more than 20 working days service are required to take out union cards.

The contract also provides wage increases of 10 to 15 cents an hour for all employees, a week's vacation with pay, the steward system, and plant-wide seniority.

CONGRESSMAN WM. FITZGERALD

Setting up a lot of concentration camps, Congressman William Fitzgerald, of Connecticut, in an interview with a Washington correspondent last Friday, strongly denounced anti-strike

Green Assigns Corps of Organizers To Work With U. A. W. Officials in Drive to Organize Automobile Plants

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has ordered an aggressive organizing campaign against workers in the automobile industry following a conference with officers of the United Automobile Workers.

He said that a large corps of A. F. of L. organizers would be assigned immediately to work with UAW officials in the drive. They will concentrate on plants now organized and on certain General Motors Corporation plants where the majority of the workers have signed disaffiliation with their present CIO leadership.

The UAW officers would be assigned to join the A. F. of L. Auto Workers' Union.

Plans are under way to be revealed to the National Labor Relations Board for new elections in these General Motors plants as soon as the task of obtaining authorization from the workers is completed.

The UAW officers submitted a report to President Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany showing remarkable progress in the past six months. Thousands of new members have been enrolled by the organization,

a large number of new local unions have been chartered and in practically every case new organizing contracts have been negotiated by the union with employers. The UAW officers attending the conference in President Green's office were: Jerry Brown, president; Jerry Brown, president; Jerry Brown, president; Jerry Brown, president.

"We are deeply gratified by the reports submitted by the UAW officials. The advances they have made as a pleasant surprise to the members of the UAW. Our efforts on our part to help the automobile workers of the nation organize for the future."

(Note: The new organizing campaign announced above is not to be confused with the current organizing drive among workers of the Ford Motor Company which is being conducted by Federal Labor Union directly affiliated with the A. F. of L. and not under the UAW.)

Labor Is Nation's Greatest and Most Talked About Issue

Critics Are Unsuccessful, Stopping at Nothing in Their Endeavor to Blame All Labor for Present Strike Epidemic—A. F. of L. Pledges to Aid Government Holds Good Except in Very Few Instances.

Had the Pords, McCormicks, General Motors, Bethlehem Steel and other large corporations seen the light and entered into negotiations with representatives of the American Federation of Labor when efforts were made in this direction during the past 25 or more years, present conditions which threaten to delay defense production would not have occurred.

They alone are to blame for conditions which gave Communists the upper hand, and by the use of foreign methods, succeeded in securing sufficient numbers of workers in large factories to bring about "sit-downs," outlaw and other strikes.

Except in very few instances, the strike situation is confined to industries in which CIO unions have apparently secured a foothold. How strong this is—as it applies to bona fide members—is seriously questioned, as during the past few years it is a fact that strikes have been launched by the CIO in industries in which not more than 15 or 20 per cent of the workers were members.

Standing the brute of critics for the present strike situation are American Federation of Labor unions. Nation-wide publicity through newspapers and magazines, biased criticism of communists, the Gallup poll and other agencies, has encouraged opponents to "gang up" on the A. F. of L.—apparently with the purpose of making Labor appear as causing interference with the program of national defense, regardless of means taken to cooperate with the Government.

Ever since John Lewis launched the CIO and included in his personnel as leaders all available Communists and fellow-travelers, there has been hell-raising in the Labor movement. Persuasive measures used by A. F. of L. unions in bargaining with employers were disregarded, and instead, means foreign to this country were adopted which forced hitherto arrogant employers to "bend the knee" in submission.

And now it is proposed to take legislative means to make all organized Labor suffer for sins committed by a comparatively small group of labor leaders.

(Continued on Page 8)

A. F. L. Unions Not Taking Advantage Of Defense Crisis to Impose Excessive Fees, Green Tells Senator Norris

Denying that American Federation of Labor unions are taking advantage of the national emergency to impose excessive and indefensible initiation fees, William Green, in a letter to Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, said that unions have always required non-union workers to pay initiation fees.

Initiation fees charged, non-union members who secure employment on defense projects are no higher now, but in some instances lower than the initiation fees charged during normal periods before the national defense program was launched. The A. F. of L. head told Norris.

President Green's letter was a reply to a letter by Senator Norris to the A. F. of L. and the CIO, asking these organizations to prevent local labor

unions from collecting what he termed "perfectly outrageous" fees from non-union workers.

"It is pretty difficult to argue with the members of a local union," Green said in his reply to Senator Norris, "that now they should admit non-union members when economic conditions have changed, without collecting any initiation fee or only a nominal fee. They insist on demanding that non-union members pay the same initiation fee they paid when they joined the union."

Mr. Green explained the viewpoint of present members, saying in part: "When the officers of the American Federation of Labor take up complaints which allege the imposition upon non-union members of excessive initiation fees, they are usually

(Continued on Page 8)

HORACE HOWE'S COLUMN

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Parizer, recently married.

Andrew Erickson, veteran member of Electrical Workers' Local 238, is seriously ill at his Fleetwood street home.

Mrs. Walter Bethel is recovering from an appendicitis in a Portland hospital.

Richard Wilson says Spring is here. Well, it looks like we will have to agree with him because he is busy getting the old motorboat ready for sailing in Casco Bay.

They say Larry (Cuppy) Gardner has been asking some questions on matrimony. Can it be that the Love Bug has been biting him? Well, time will tell!

Have you heard that the stock will pay another visit to the Barry Lowell family?

The John R. Kitchen family celebrated birthdays during March. Miss Jacqueline was hostess to a number of her young friends at the Lafayette Hotel.

Several new members have been admitted to Electrical Workers' Local 238.

Winners in a recent safety speaker program sponsored by E. T. Emerson, safety director of the Cumberland County Power and Light Co., included President Philip Pico, Charles Foren and former Secretary Raymond Roadway of Local 238.

Mrs. Harry Geller has been elected Secretary of the Portland Council of Jewish Women.

Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott are at their home, 249 Vaughan street, where it is reported a housewarming will soon take place.

Sure signs of Spring: Carl Rawcliffe making regular week-end trips to Hampden.

Arthur Gallant will purchase a new home soon.

James P. Kilmarin is getting his summer home at Raymond ready for occupancy.

Ralph Irish will move to his Buny Eagle cottage in the near future.

Albert (Doc) Niles will spend the summer at Peaks Island.

Victor McLean and family have already moved to their Peaks Island home.

Portland Labor leaders are pleased to note that Mr. White, manager of the Montgomery Ward Co. Portland store has been transferred.

Victor Erickson will soon start cultivating in his Buxton farm. We wonder if goats will be the topic of the day?

Leonard Arbo is busy getting his Pownall Farm ready for the season.

Fritz Colley, inspector for the local transportation company, will become a regular reader of The Labor News now that he has signed for a year's subscription.

John Steele, starter in Monument Square, has parted with that long sheepskin coat. Says John: "Well, it sure felt nice during the past winter."

Another sign of Spring: Hershers, Sloat has started his regular Spring chicken raising.

Several members of the fair get attended the regular meeting of Local 238, and they are taking an interest. Hope to see more of them at the next meeting.

James E. Seymour will soon open his Panther Pond Camp; that is, if we do not have any more snow.

South Portland citizens welcome another shipyard, where it is understood a number of ships will be built for the Maritime Commission.

They say a large attendance from the Woolen and Worsted Workers' Union will attend the supper and dance sponsored by the C. L. U. Auxiliary on April 24.

Congratulations to the Hod Carriers and Building Construction Workers' Union on the success of their recent wage negotiation.

Have you your ticket for the John

anniversary celebration of the Central Labor Union and Truck Drivers' Local 240. If you do not want to be disappointed, call David Hastings, 4-4622. Remember the date, May 2, Eastland Hotel Ballroom.

A good way to cooperate with National Defense is to work safely, avoid accidents at home and on the job. The Nation needs all the man-hours possible.

In and Out of the News

PLUMBERS DENOUNCE WASTEFUL SPENDING

Waterful and unnecessary spending of public money will prove the downfall of the nation. This was the gist of the speech delivered by Chairman Edward C. Berry of the Portland City Council, given before the 4th annual convention of the Maine State Association of Master Plumbers, recently.

The setting was the Falmouth Hotel and the meeting was largely attended. Stating that national expenditures should be confined to essentials of government in order to assure sufficient funds for the development of the national defense program, Mr. Berry pointed out that the interest on the present Federal debt was \$2,000 for every minute of every hour of the 24-hour day. He especially decried the present trend to slacken effort and to look to the government for assistance in ordinary human affairs hitherto personally assumed and carried into execution. "For every loan, loan grant there is the inevitable tax. In time, the public will realize this age-old truth."

My dictionary defines an apprentice as "one bound or article by indenture to serve a certain number of years to learn some trade or craft—put under the care of a master for instruction in some trade or craft."

Some employers have made a practice of hiring what are commonly called operators. An operator is one who can perform a certain task, or operate a specified machine, but is not an all-around craftsman.

This custom had worked fairly well for employers when there was an ample labor supply. When methods changed, requiring the use of different machines, the use of different tradesmen was desired in advance of official consideration.

DRAFT REGISTRANTS AND LOCAL BOARDS. In the case of exemption claims, or other matters which qualify the eligibility of those who have been drafted into the military service, it is announced that local draft boards will decide such cases. This is in general conformity with the present law.

While there may be appeals from the decisions of the board, the decisions of that impartial body will carry much weight with any higher reviewing tribunal. The local board must first have a right to be considered by the State or national authority, with regard to any alleged changes and modifications upon the part of the draft registrant.

2000 New Subscribers for Maine Labor News in One Month

"Increase number of copies for the April issue of the Maine State Labor News 2000," was an order received during the week from Treasurer Richard W. Gustin of the Maine State Federation of Labor, who, aside from his other duties, is also circulation manager.

This is a record-breaker for one month since the Maine State Labor News was started nearly 10 years ago. Additions to the list of paid subscribers this month, to the number of 2,000, is the result of an intensive campaign started by all members of the Executive Board several months ago and the result has been most amazing. Building mechanics, paper makers, textile workers, and other unions subscribed for all their members, and the success arose by members of the Executive Council, who have gone into their work determined, bids fair to show that the Labor News in the home of every organized worker in the State of Maine within a few months.

Of particular interest in this circulation campaign is the willingness demonstrated by members of newly

formed locals to become subscribers, after having become acquainted with The Labor News through the distribution of sample copies at meetings. This is followed by talks on the importance of The Labor News as a medium of publicity covering the activities of Labor throughout the State and Nation.

Also of particular interest is a letter from a member of the Executive Council, whose members subscribed for The Labor News as individuals. "It was most pleasing," he writes, "that when seeking renewals of subscriptions from members of this local, only two of the more than 175 members asked to have the paper discontinued. One of these was an elderly man who had partially lost his eyesight, while the other is a draftsman, and at the time was not aware as to his future address."

Members of the Federation's Executive Council are a unit in proclaiming that benefits derived by the Federation in its organizing and other activities by The Labor News greatly facilitates their work, and are greatly encouraged to continue their campaign to include all members of local unions in the state as regular subscribers.

Study of Apprenticeship System Released in Part After Several Months of Intensive Research

By ALBERT N. TARDIF, President, Portland Typographical Union No. 66.

The tremendous expansion of industrial activity, forced by the national defense program plus the all-out aid we have pledged to other democracies has brought to the front a problem which has received too little attention in the past. I refer to apprenticeship training programs. The training of typesetters has altogether too long been a neglected subject.

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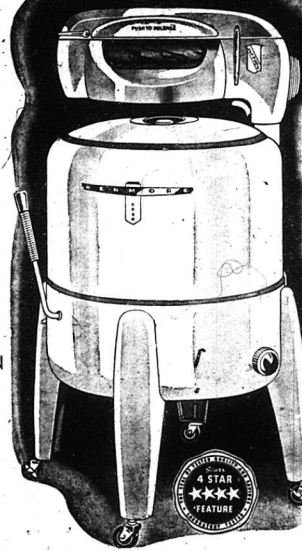
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Official Newspaper of the
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Published Monthly by
THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
Under Supervision of Leo J. Ashby and E. J. Dorsky

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine, Devoted to the Promotion of the Welfare of the Wage Earner and the Prosperity of Industry Through a Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employee.

Subscription, One Year 50 Cents. Per Copy, 5 Cents.
Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1932, at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, under the Act of March 3, 1979.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable send notice on Form 3573 to R. W. Gustin, 24 Dexter Street, Bangor, Maine.

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APRIL, 1941

A Warning to Labor

In Washington last week, Representative Mary Norton, chairman of the House Committee on Labor, sounded a warning to both employers and unions that they must be more cooperative lest advocates of legislation to curb strikes may be successful in their efforts.

"I am unalterably opposed to anti-strike legislation," Mrs. Norton said, "but I have sense enough to know that unless labor unions get together and declare a truce for the duration of the war, in jurisdictional strikes, and employers and employees compromise their differences, it will be impossible to prevent this legislation, or even to preserve the legislation we have worked so hard to enact."

Of course, there is much logic in what Representative Norton says, and it should be taken to heart by representatives of labor and industry. But to take just one instance, that of the trouble now raging at the Chicago plant of the International Harvester Company, it is our opinion that the National Labor Relations Board should step in and exercise its authority.

In this case, the A. F. of L. members have a contract with the company and are determined to abide by its terms, while members of the CIO are attempting to coerce all employees to strike. Frequent clashes between the contract-abiding A. F. of L. men and CIO pickets have been the cause for much excitement at the company's gates.

Labor, as exemplified by the A. F. of L., maintains that a jurisdictional strike is one which occurs when unions of two different crafts claim jurisdiction over the same workers. The controversy at the Chicago plant can in no sense be termed a jurisdictional strike, as it is simply a repetition of the CIO's policy to raid legitimate A. F. of L. unions wherever possible, and to cause industrial strife in following the Communist "party line".

It has been ably stated in recent issues of this newspaper that much publicity has been given to the comparatively few strikes now taking place, but that no publicity at all is given to those thousands of unions having pleasant relations with employers.

We are of the opinion, and have been ever since the CIO secured a stranglehold in some defense industries, that this series of strikes is but the well-defined plan of the Communist leaders of CIO unions to do all in their power to retard the National Defense program as a means for furthering the party's aim of world revolution.

Minority Strikes As Organizational Strategy Endanger Freedom We Seek to Defend

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has called upon all A. F. of L. unions to do everything in their power to avoid strikes in national defense industries.

Writing on "Labor's Obligation" in the April issue of the American Federationist, official magazine of the A. F. of L., Mr. Green made it clear that he considers it the duty of unions, when serious controversies with employers arise to submit the issues to mediation and arbitration.

"While we must insist upon fundamental principles," Mr. Green declared, "when collective bargaining breaks down we should submit issues to mediation and arbitration, doing everything within our power to avoid strikes."

"The future of our nation, our democratic institutions and the very existence of a free labor movement are at stake. The American labor movement will as always give unreserved service to the cause of freedom."

Mr. Green said the "key issue" in the present war is "personal freedom" and he added that this was "the goal which has inspired organized labor throughout the ages."

"In the name of the American Federation of Labor, I solemnly remind all national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, their affiliated unions and all unions directly affiliated to it, to recognize that our service and cooperation will have a determining influence both in the Battle of Britain and in

the planning and development of New World defense.

"Under legislation guaranteeing the right to union membership, we have made substantial progress in extending union organization. By responsible leadership and union cooperation for the effectuation of national defense we have opportunity to demonstrate the constructive nature of our movement and the responsible self-discipline which democratic institutions develop."

In a second signed editorial in the magazine, the A. F. of L. president characterized minority strikes and the presence of Communists in positions of influence in labor unions as "the two gravest dangers which menace defense production."

The text of the second editorial follows, in part:

"We steadfastly charge that when a responsible union official countenances Communists in representative capacity or sanctions Communist policies or practices, he is false to the American trade union movement and unworthy of the principles which our government affords him."

"The second menace to our defense program is the strike by a minority group to gain control by strategy that has not been earned on a basis of union membership. The picket line keeps workers out of the plant so that production is stopped and the minority leaders, with the help of government friends, gain credit for negotiating a truce. Later the picket line is used to force payment of union dues."

"The American Federation of Labor holds that union members and unionism do not result from these methods. Strikes to right wrongs are the inalienable right of free workers. But minority strikes as organizational strategy are quite another matter and endanger the freedom we seek to defend."

Should Wages Be "Stabilized"?

In its current monthly summary of the general business and industrial situation, the American Federation of Labor reviews some of the main factors underlying the present situation, particularly regarding prices and wage scales. The term used to define this new phase of readjustment is called "stabilization of wages". It has implications both deep and wide, and of serious import alike to labor and industry.

Plainly, a movement is started to stabilize (or freeze) wages at or about their present level. The reason given is that, "if wages rise, prices must also increase, and the nation must guard against the dangers of inflation."

The answer to this argument is, that wages can be increased without substantially raising prices, if the workers' rate of production is taken into account. Last year, 1940, wages (per hour) in the nation's factories rose an average of five per cent; but the basic cost of labor did not increase. On the other hand, in some cases the cost of labor actually declined. Increased production made this possible. "With new machines in use and plants working nearer capacity, production per man-hour in 1940 rose almost five per cent."

Labor asks: "If the employer's labor cost does not increase when wages rise, do prices have to be raised?" The obvious answer is, they do not!

In further proof of this, it is shown that, from 1929 to 1940, factory wages per hour rose 20 per cent (average), but wholesale prices of goods produced by factories actually dropped 15 per cent, while the cost of living dropped by 18 per cent. Why was this? Because—workers' production per hour rose 40 per cent!

Labor is vitally interested in placing these facts before the public to avoid misunderstanding. The issue is a crucial one. To stop wage increases when industry is able to pay, robs the underprivileged man and pays a higher profit to those whose gains, from national defense work, are already high.

And the key solution is—that wage increases can be made without generating price increases by the sole means of collective bargaining. This policy permits the negotiating cards to be laid frankly upon the table, for an equitable and just compact.

Our Policy is Clear as Crystal

If a vestige of doubt remained in any mind as to this country's position in the current world struggle for power, the President's speech at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner should have dispelled it. There was no humor in the President's voice; there were no light touches; he had grave words to say, and he said them gravely.

That speech, coming hard on the heels of Congress' approval of the lend-lease bill, made our policy clear as crystal—we are out to destroy dictatorship, and the entire resources of this nation will be spent freely to that end. He denounced the Nazis by name. He accused them of seeking the destruction of elective systems of government on every continent, including our own. He accused them of seeking to stir up controversies and to create division within all democracies, including our own. And he said that they would fail—that the world-be conquerors will find that the forces of democracy, though they may move slowly, will in the end be supreme.

It is no secret that Britain expects that revolution in the conquered nations will eventually be a major factor contributing to Hitler's collapse. The fact that the United States has actually intervened in the war, even though only as a non-belligerent, is expected to give new hope to the millions of people who now live as virtual prisoners of the Nazi-Fascist system.

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Appellate Court Upholds Restrictions on Trade Unions

The New York State Labor Relations law permits employer associations to bar their members from making individual agreements with unions. The Appellate Court has held. This took the form of a ruling on a suit brought

by the Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors of Greater New York, Inc., against a dissident member of that group. The employers' association had sued one of its members for violation of their common agreement. This dispute arose out of the strike of the Plumbers' Union in 1939, because the union insisted upon making individual contracts with the various members of the employers' association.

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Committee Plans Fine Program for Delegates At Annual Convention

Members of the committee in charge of arrangements for the annual convention of the Maine State Federation of Labor, to be held in Millinocket, are planning Tuesday, June 18, are sparing no means to make the stay of delegates as pleasant and entertaining as possible.

While the program of entertainment is incomplete, members of the committee plan to hold the annual convention, banquet, with a floor show, and to be followed with dancing. An credentials are just being sent to Union leaders by Secretary Charles O. Brown. It is difficult to estimate the

number of local unions to be represented at the convention.

However, judging from the large number of new locals which became affiliated with the State Federation of Labor during the past year, the anticipated growth of a goodly number of locals this spring is particularly gratifying. The largest in the history of the organization.

Officers of local unions in Millinocket and East Millinocket are expected to call a meeting shortly after the Easter holidays to complete plans for the convention. Headquarters for the sessions will be at the Great Northern Hotel, with general meetings taking place in one of the large halls of Millinocket.

This is the first time in years that a convention of the State Branch has been held in Millinocket, and selection of this community at last year's session was in recognition of the fine record of achievement that the paper mill unions have here, and in its interest in furthering organization in other paper manufacturing centers of the State. Outstanding leaders in national and state organizations of the A. F. of L. are expected to attend the Millinocket convention, whose importance will be accentuated by the part that Maine Labor is playing in furthering National Unions.

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Muddled Reasoning Given by Comm. in Rejecting Wage Law

(Continued from Page 1)

of labor, spoke in favor of a general minimum wage and hour law. Written communications were complaints of long hours and little pay sent in by exploited workers. This leaves the proposal of an employer of labor and the personal investigations of members of the Committee as the basis of its decision. It denies the reputable evidence presented by Labor, the business and professional women's clubs, and the written complaints of individual Maine citizens.

The conclusions of the Committee show nothing but muddled reasoning and a naive understanding of the problem of wages and hours in the State of Maine. They fail to provide a logical basis for the rejection of a wage and hour law for Maine, or a satisfactory evidence for going to the expense of holding public hearings without weighing the value of those hearings.

NATIONAL LAW TOO LOW!

The present national law providing

for 30 cents an hour and a 40-hour week, or without overtime, a 112 week was considered too low! "It would be difficult for one to conclude that 112 a week would provide the necessities of life or its comfort to a worker without at least limiting the number of his or her dependents." This admission of the need of a minimum wage is the reason the Committee gives for its rejection of having any law. The logical proposal that Maine's wage and hour law should provide a higher minimum wage is never presented.

The claim of the law's proponents that shorter hours would tend to increase employment was refuted with the theory that an increase in the demand for goods was the only thing that could increase employment; and that an increase in the wages of workers, resulting from a minimum wage law, was entirely unrelated to an increase in the demand for goods.

If a minimum wage law in Maine would not raise workers' wages,

it is easy to understand how it could be so far from the demand for goods. The Committee, however, admits that a law would increase the wages of the workers and it is difficult to see how they can criticize the national law with the fundamental principles of supply and demand.

FEDERAL WAGES REDUCED?

Actual cases of employees receiving less money under the Federal law were brought to the attention of the Committee and provided for their failure that a minimum wage law furnishes no guarantee that higher existing wages will be reduced to the minimum.

The Federal law reduced hours from forty-two to forty last fall without providing for any general rise in minimum hourly pay. Naturally, this reduced the weekly wages of certain workers, but no mention is made of the expressed purpose of the law to raise hourly rates to 40 cents an hour by 1945.

The conclusions drawn by the Committee state that a minimum wage and hour law is a stupor for the indolent and a deterrent to the ambitious and apt worker. These same conclusions were made in the wake of the statement that a 112 a week would not provide the necessities of life to a worker with dependents!

BARTER NOT BILLS

Getting down to fundamentals, however, the Committee discovered that a wage and hour law prevented the existence of a money economy, and that in certain parts of Maine workers received rent, food, and other things of value in return for their labor. This is a barter system. Goods, not money, are exchanged for labor.

Since a minimum wage and hour law would not affect these workers, it was deemed undesirable. The fact that these workers are among those who have the greatest need for wage and hour regulations is ignored.

A barter economy may ignore the existence of money and it undoubtedly exists in some regions of this State. To assume it automatically provides a reasonable return to workmen and for their labor is to assume the existence of magic. There is absolutely no evidence in the Committee's report to justify any such assumption.

PICKEED BOARD

The Committee's alternative for a date minimum wage and hour law proposes that if five workers or ten disinterested citizens complained of excessive low wages or hours, a board of nine will be set up to investigate. After the findings of this board have been filed, the report shall be law. The committee of nine will consist of three representatives of the employers, the public and the workers, respectively. The committee may concern any business, industry, or occupation within the state.

The administration of this proposal is handicapped by the fact that a permanent commission is not created. Standard rules or regulations could be established.

Maine has had no minimum wage and maximum hour regulations. The Committee's report to the Legislature to complaints admits such a need. But no loosely defined board can administer regulations to business and occupations. Regulations must cover industries as a whole.

The Committee's report is an ethical analysis of the admitted source material. It can hardly be expected to satisfy those citizens whose livelihood is at stake.

Laws Designed

(Continued from Page 1)

to plan for the help of labor in America, organized and unorganized, for the achievement of that purpose and at the same time throttle labor by the enactment of patriotic and punitive legislation.

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LEGISLATIVE NOTES

(Continued from Page 2)

government sponsored and cooperatively financed public utilities service.

Already the bill proposing such enterprise has been unfavorably reported upon by the Committee on Public Utilities. In that House, it will come up for debate in a few days.

Representative Ardine Richardson, of Strong, master of the State House, is actively sponsoring the bill, which has been attacked as being flagrantly unconstitutional and as opening up the way to serious interference with existing power line projects in Maine.

BILL TO REGULATE DELIVERY OF FUEL

Objections were registered before the Legislative Judiciary Committee to a bill regulating and supervising the sale and delivery of fuel. Opposed were representatives of several Portland and Lewiston coal and fuel companies.

Advocating the measure was a Lewiston resident who claimed to represent fuel dealers in that city, Auburn and Danville. Another speaker for the bill said it was intended to prevent domination of small fuel dealers by the larger concerns.

HOME AND FARM ABANDONMENT

The Senate declared that hundreds of people have abandoned their homes and farms to escape their own taxes. The tax rate is constantly rising, he said, and something must be done to halt it. It must be controlled if young people are to be encouraged to build and own their own homes. If it is not done, more towns in Maine will be de-populated or taken over by the State. "Tax assessors," he said, "never decrease the value of a property."

A representative of the Maine State Association of Portland stated that an emergency existed in Maine owing to the real estate tax situation. Under a sales tax, everybody would be treated alike, he declared. Statewide categories, he said, were a fairer basis.

CUMULATIVE FLAG SALES

Political tolerance was well shown at a hearing before the Legislative Committee on Education, when a representative of the Communist Party assailed a bill sponsored by the American Legion to require public school pupils to salute the American flag.

Lewis Gordon, the protesting Communist, declared the proposed law was an insult to the people and would be harmful to the State. He advertised the stock phrases about Wall Street capitalism, in the traditional vein, as non-patriotic.

Representative Adams, School of Labor, also an opponent of the bill, declared the enactment would tend to curb and control subversive elements not actively at work in some public schools. The Senate might have had in mind the present failure in the public schools of New York City. Communist activities have led to a legislative investigation and the expulsion of several school teachers in that city.

State American Legion Commander, Paul Fulkner of Waterville, drew upon the need of teaching patriotism in the schools.

REVENUE FROM SALE OF WINE

Speaking before a Committee on Temperance in a final public hearing, William T. Mayberry of Dexter stated that half a million dollars revenue a year might be realized from sales of wine in restaurants, grocery stores and drug stores.

Another bill heard by the committee recently was one to legalize the sale of hard cider. The bill would allow distillers of beer to retain 25 per cent of the retail price of the cider, 30 per cent would go to the state, while the owner of the apples from which the beverage was made would receive the remaining 45 per cent.

Hard cider has been persistently opposed by many as a licensed beverage from its well-known protracted effects after undue indulgence upon the part of the drinker.

WOULD ABANDON LAST OF TROLLEYS

In a petition filed with the Public Utilities Commission, permission to abandon its last remaining street railway lines in Portland was sought by the Cumberland County Power & Light Company. Buses are desired to be substituted on the lines which are at present served by the electric cars.

This action seems strange to many who are viewing the intensified effort

to develop electric power in this country, while at the same time favoring the elimination of trolleys—one of the most dependable consumers of such generated energy.

Bangor Airport

(Continued from Page 1)

ment with the contractor on the Sears, Roebuck job.

Other matters disposed of at the C. L. U. meeting, was action on a resolution which placed some blame manufactured by Proctor & Gamble Co. on Labor's "We Don't Patronize" list because the wrappers used are printed under non-union conditions.

No Money Left in Maine's Vocational School Defense Fund

Representative Frank Fellows announced recently that all vocational educational money allocated to the State of Maine schools for training for defense industries had been spent, and he was told at the War Department, Office of Education, when asking for \$11,000 from the government for new machinery and to repair used machinery in Bangor schools, that no more was available.

Representative Fellows also reports that the War Department refused to tell how many men are to be quartered at the Bangor Air Station, or how many are married, the Department declaring this to be "restricted information."

Fellows had been asked by the Bangor school authorities, who anticipate a strain on school facilities when the air station personnel arrive, probably with children in the married quarters.

Woodland Paper Mkr. Elect Kneeland Pres.

Members of Border Lodge No. 1490 of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, Woodland, at their meeting held Friday, March 7th, elected Charles Kneeland as president and these other officers for the ensuing year:

Vice-president, Robert Knudsen, recording secretary, R. H. Jones, financial secretary, W. J. Porter, treasurer, O. H. Ginn, sergeant-at-arms, J. L. Blaney, warden, R. V. Blaney.

Trustees and auditors, John Baron, George Russell and Wallace Gillespie. Border Lodge No. 1490 holds its meetings in Woodland Town hall on the second and last Fridays of the month.

Union Workers Strike For Higher Wages at Fashionable Hat Shop

New York City, Mar. 24 (U.S.N.S.)—The Millinery Workers' Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, called a strike last week at the fashionable hat shop of Lilly Dache, after negotiating unsuccessfully for higher wages and a 35-hour week.

Union leaders said the "no-work" represented the opening move in a drive



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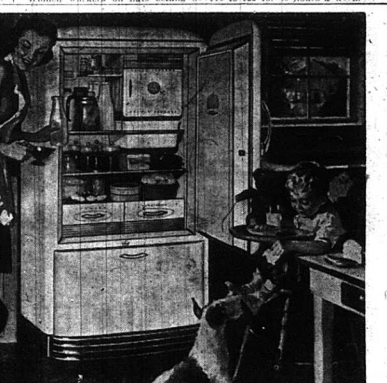
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WHEN YOU BUY DAYSON PRODUCTS

you provide hours of work for Maine Labor...

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Using Maine Products and Maine Materials. Over a hundred Dayson Dealers in Maine anxious to serve you.

Maine Made Bedding and Furniture for Maine People!

COMMONWEALTH SHOE & LEATHER COMPANY

GARDINER, MAINE

We invite union workingmen and their families to visit FREESE'S THIRD FLOOR of FASHIONS and our five other huge shopping floors this week to shop for smart Easter fashions and Easter gifts

Bangor carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians, painters and many others are regularly at work in this huge store. We are proud of the fact that we are always building new things to make our store more efficient and more pleasant for our many customers, and we are also proud to have this work done by members of Maine's progressive labor unions. Men who work here soon get to know the store... and that's why you see more and more workingmen and their families shopping regularly in their favorite store... Freese's in Bangor.



Freese's at Eastertime is the center for all of the style excitement in the State of Maine. Hundreds and hundreds of women from towns and cities throughout the State come to this huge shopping and fashion center just to see what's new. Freese's alert style buyers make such frequent trips to New York that fashions which are just setting the pace on Fifth Avenue today, are also on display for you to see and try on our famous Third Floor of Fashions. Join the hundreds of style leaders who know that Freese's fashions are leaders of the field.

You workingmen and your families will enjoy seeing these things in Freese's:

Be sure to see our wonderful window displays on the Main Street front and the Pickering Square front... see the Third Floor of Fashions, "Fifth Avenue in Maine"... see the finest array of gifts in the State in Freese's Fifth Floor Silverware and Gift Shop... take the children up to see the year-around Toyland on the Fifth Floor, and the wonderful Children's Center on the Second Floor. You men will want to see Maine's greatest men's

store, Freese's Men's Shops, on the Street Floor, and the fine new men's store for work clothing and outdoor clothing in Freese's Pickering Square Store. See Maine's greatest housewares store, Freese's Pickering Square Store... Freese's Style Shoe Salon on the Street Floor, and the smart Corset Salon on the Second Floor. And these are just a few of the 64 complete departments in Freese's! Make yourselves right at home in this huge store. Spend an entire day in Freese's.

Freese's Is Probably The Largest Store In The Entire Nation For A City The Size of Bangor!

Labor Is Nation's Greatest And Most Talked About Issue

(Continued from Page 1)

number of persons, who are more interested in a "cause" than in the future economic welfare of the workers. As the result of stampeding methods used by CIO-unions in large industrial plants, to use the words of Governor James of Pennsylvania, "Labor is at the cross-roads." Note that the Governor implies ALL labor, and not the CIO. And so with the "fake" Gallup poll, which also uses the term "all labor" in its criticism of leaders who, it is charged, are not doing what they should to avert strikes in defense industries.

At all gatherings of A. F. of L. unions, these including national, state and district conventions, repeated declarations and pledges are made to cooperate with the Government's defense program. It is true that in a few instances unions have deviated from this, but when this occurred, strikes which affected comparatively few men were quickly adjusted.

Hosts of friends throughout the country, including members of Congress, State legislators, friendly employers, members of various professions, fraternal, economic and other organizations, as well as members of A. F. of L. unions, fully realize the present situation is dangerous to the future of organized Labor, and are earnestly hoping the President's 11-man mediation committee will be successful in accomplishing something that will make unnecessary any changes in legislation so greatly agitated for by the comparatively few who are

hell-bent on taking from bona fide Labor the many legislative and other gains made during the many years of its legislative and organizing activities.

The twisted manner in which present conditions are made to appear by an unfriendly press has, unfortunately, resulted in befuddling the minds of some who are inclined to question the sincerity of A. F. of L. unions. The especially prepared articles by newspaper columnists are vicious and most misleading in their general make-up. To some extent, they are causing some members of trade unions to take for granted what they read, without looking into facts, and to become more or less critical.

This is no time for anyone who is obligated to a trade union to become lax in his duties as a defender of the cause of Labor. If he does, he is falling hard for the propaganda which is especially prepared to injure him and those with whom he is associated, and who will suffer should the enemies of Labor succeed in making their plans effective.

The situation, as it is at present, demands that every A. F. of L. member in the country fully realize his or her responsibilities. That, through affiliation with an A. F. of L. union, all have pledged themselves to cooperate with the Government in the national defense program, and by this and other means do their utmost toward conserving conditions made possible as the result of many years of constructive effort.

San Jurisdictional

(Continued from Page 1)

fees shall be the minimum possible in view of the benefits extended by the union organizations and reasonable time will be granted for the payment of such initiation fees.

"These policies were adopted at an all-day meeting of the Executive Council of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor held last Saturday. Copies of two resolutions passed at this meeting will be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Labor, the Office of Production Management and the National Defense Mediation Board.

"In addition, officers of the inter-

national unions involved will be asked to instruct all of their local unions to comply with these policies and our 212 local councils of the Building and Construction Trades Department will be similarly notified.

"The Building and Construction



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FOOTWEAR**

FOR EVERY MEMBER
OF THE FAMILY

ALWAYS CORRECTLY
FITTED

SCHIRO'S
Bangor SHOE Store
29 Mercantile Sq. Bangor, Me.

Latest Spring Fashions Displayed at Freese's Big Department Store

Freese's Department Store in Bangor is drawing large crowds of Easter shoppers this week from all sections of Penobscot County and other parts of Down East Maine. One of New England's finest and largest stores, Freese's presents the very latest Spring fashions in women's, children's and men's and boys' wear and accessories in an array of styles and sizes to meet every requirement and within a range of prices that all can afford. Hundreds and hundreds of women have visited the huge store to select their Easter and Spring wardrobes. Once again, Freese's Third Floor of Fashions has been acclaimed the style center of the State. Styles that are brand new today in the smartest salons of Fifth Avenue are also being shown at this Bangor store.

The men's and boys' clothing and

furnishings departments on the street floor are also featuring everything that is new in suits, topcoats, hats and other furnishings.

Truly, it can be said that nowhere else in Maine under one roof can every need of the family be so well met in clothes than at Freese's.

THE LABOR NEWS, 60c A YEAR

AFL Unions

(Continued from Page 1)

initiation fees with the officers and members of local unions located at points where these complaints originate, said local officers and members immediately explain that they sacrificed much while fighting for the establishment of decent wages and working conditions during a period of many years in the localities in which they reside.

"They show that they were compelled to pay the same amount of initiation fees now collected from new members into the local when they joined, and that during all the time while they were members of their local they paid their dues and assessments regularly each month.

"They protest strongly that non-union men who now secure employment made no contribution toward the establishment of the decent wage scales which prevail, but in securing

employment become the beneficiaries of the wage level established by the union, are entitled to enjoy all of its benefits, and that the union requires and compels the contractor to pay the newly admitted member the same wage scale and accord to him the same favorable working conditions as every union member employed at the plant enjoys.

ALL SHARE BENEFITS PAID BY UNIONS

"These union members argue vehemently that the initiation fees charged new members do not represent an amount of money equal to that which they paid into the union over a long period of time all during which they fought for the establishment of decent wages and humane conditions of employment."

Green added that every cent of the initiation fees goes into local union treasuries and that new members share with older members in the stock, death and other benefits paid by local unions. He pointed out that local unions, under their constitutions, have the authority to fix initiation fees and said that national and international unions have acted within the limits of their authority by instructing the locals that "only a uniform standard initiation fee charge can be made."

THE LABOR NEWS, 60c A YEAR

GREETINGS TO THE

MAINE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF PAPER MILL UNIONS

FROM THE

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